

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish
a vehicle summer meal delivery pilot program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MERKLEY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred
to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch
Act to establish a vehicle summer meal delivery pilot
program, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Feeding Our Rural
5 Kids Act of 2023” or the “FORK Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. VEHICLE SUMMER MEAL DELIVERY PILOT PRO-**
7 **GRAM.**

8 Section 13(a) of the Richard B. Russell National
9 School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1761(a)) is amended by add-
10 ing at the end the following:

1 “(14) VEHICLE SUMMER MEAL DELIVERY
2 PILOT PROGRAM.—

3 “(A) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—

4 In this paragraph, the term ‘eligible entity’
5 means a service institution.

6 “(B) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary
7 shall establish a pilot program (referred to in
8 this paragraph as the ‘pilot program’), to be
9 carried out beginning with the first summer fol-
10 lowing the date of enactment of this paragraph,
11 to award grants to eligible entities to purchase
12 or retrofit vehicles to facilitate the distribution
13 of noncongregate meals made available pursu-
14 ant to this section.

15 “(C) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants
16 under the pilot program, the Secretary shall
17 give priority to eligible entities—

18 “(i) with high rates of students who
19 are eligible for free or reduced price
20 lunches under this Act; and

21 “(ii) that serve a high proportion of
22 students from socially disadvantaged back-
23 grounds.

24 “(D) GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.—In award-
25 ing grants under the pilot program, the Sec-

1 retary shall ensure, to the maximum extent
2 practicable, that eligible entities receiving
3 grants are located in diverse geographic areas.

4 “(E) GRANTS.—

5 “(i) TERM.—The term of a grant
6 awarded under the pilot program shall be
7 1 year.

8 “(ii) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The
9 amount of a grant awarded under the pilot
10 program shall not exceed \$100,000.

11 “(iii) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—
12 An eligible entity awarded a grant under
13 the pilot program shall use not more than
14 10 percent of grant funds for administra-
15 tive expenses.

16 “(iv) REPORT REQUIREMENT.—Not
17 later than 1 year after receiving a grant
18 under the pilot program, an eligible entity
19 shall submit to the Secretary a report de-
20 scribing the use of the grant funds, includ-
21 ing—

22 “(I) the number of entities that
23 benefitted from the grant; and

24 “(II) the number of children
25 served as a result of the grant.

1 “(F) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE; BEST PRAC-
2 TICES.—The Secretary shall provide technical
3 assistance to, and share best practices with, eli-
4 gible entities that receive grants under the pilot
5 program.

6 “(G) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years
7 after the date of enactment of this paragraph,
8 the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report
9 on the administration of the pilot program, in-
10 cluding a summary of the reports received pur-
11 suant to subparagraph (D)(iii).

12 “(H) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
13 TIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated
14 to the Secretary to carry out the pilot program
15 \$1,000,000 for each year of the 3-year period
16 beginning on the date of establishment of the
17 pilot program.”.